## REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 are in the application wherein claims 1 and 5 are allowed; claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP-A-54-60366; and claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent from rejected base claims but are otherwise indicated as being allowable. New claims 9 to 13 are added.

The comments made in the Office Action in support of the rejection of claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese reference have been considered and, except for the cancellation from claim 2 (as well as from claim 3) of the disjunctive expression "or wells"), the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections of claims 2 and 6 in view of the following comments.

Claim 1, which comprehensively recites the invention disclosed in JP-A-54-60366, contains the following recitations:

> A simultaneous molding method of starting materials of different properties, comprising of filling starting materials comprising foamable thermoplastic resin particles into a cavity 3 of molds 1 and 2, and obtaining a foam molding 100 by heat expanding the starting materials with using a heating conductor such as a steam; further comprising the steps of:
>
> dividing a boundary portion to mold with using the starting materials of different properties in the cavity 3 by using a member (a pin 4) having a space in the dividing direction,
>
> filling the starting materials of different properties respectively into the divided cavity 3,
>
> drawing the dividing member (a pin 4) from the cavity 3 between the filling and the finishing of heat fusion, thereby the starting materials of different properties being fusionally molded integrally.

The differences between the molding method disclosed in the Japanese reference and the invention as embodied in the present application, particularly as recited in rejected claim 2, from which claims 3, 4 and 6 to 8 depend, can be explained as follows. Although a molding product having a portion comprised of starting materials of different properties can be molded by using the method described by Sugawara similarly as that defined in present claims 2, 9 and 13 in the method of Sugawara, as mentioned above, the dividing member (a pin 4) is drawn from the cavity 3 between the filling and the finishing of heat fusion. As a result, through-holes or wells cannot be formed in a molding product molded by the method of Sugawara. This is because through-holes or wells are formed in the starting materials filled into the cavity by drawing a pin and, when the pin is drawn just after filling, the starting materials due to this flexibility are freely moved. In addition, the through-holes or wells formed by drawing the pin in Sugawara are caused to disappear by the peripheral materials moving thereinto when the starting materials are closed to each other by heat fusion after filling. Furthermore, even if the pin is drawn just before finishing the heat fusion, the starting materials are still movable just after finishing the heat fusion. Accordingly, as mentioned above, the through-holes or wells formed by drawing the pin are caused to disappear by the movement of the peripheral material.

Therefore, Sugawara fails to disclose the through-holes and wells as described in the present claims 2 and 9.

In addition, the specification of Sugawara as translated describes the following:

--Namely, an end portion of the pin 4 is attached or closed to the inner wall surface 14 of the cavity portion 12, when the air cylinder 43 is moved forward, and a divided cavity 3 is formed. On the contrary, an end portion of the pin 4 is positioned at the same level of the molding product surface 25 of the core portion 22 or slightly extruded (in case that a small concave portion is acceptable), when the air cylinder 43 is moved backward (lines 5 to 12 in the left bottom portion of page 2 of the reference).

From the above description, it is clear that through-holes and wells are not formed in a portion where the pin is drawn. Nor are through-holes or wells having a small depth formed in the product. Contrariwise, present claim 9 recites the through-holes as being a plurality of through-holes extending from one side of the boundary portion nearly to the another side in the mold parting direction. Clearly, Sugawara fails to disclose, nor is there any suggestion of, through-holes having such a deep depth.

On the other hand, according to new claim 13, both types of through-holes are formed, i.e., through-holes extending from a cavity side to a core side and through-holes extending from a core side to a cavity side. But, again, Sugawara never discloses such a structure nor is there any suggestion thereof.

For the foregoing reasons therefore it is submitted that the disclosure contained in the Sugawara reference fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 2 and 6, as well as that recited in

new claims 9 to 13. All of the claims now in the application are submitted as being patentable and their early allowance is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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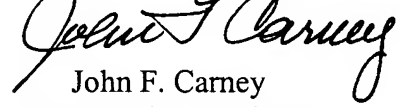

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